News for the
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Soundings

September 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 8

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

A Youth Perspective

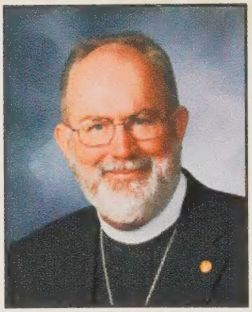
by Kirsten Ramsdell, member of LYONS

The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA provided my youth group, Lutheran Youth of North Seattle (LYONS), an opportunity to more fully understand our potential to make a difference, spreading God's message of compassion and service. As humans we have the obligation to provide assistance and kindness to others. The people of New Orleans showed their gratitude, insisting that the impact of 38,000 pairs of hands and hearts would be significant for their devastated communities.

One day our driver told us that she had driven her charter bus for evacuation purposes during the hurricane. She said it was the most horrific event she had lived through. She witnessed people aggressively trying to survive and find security. She thanked us for coming and stated that our presence was a blessing simply because it reminded them that others were still concerned for their well-being four years after the event... Our world, today, suffers with countless issues, and the overwhelming quantity can distract us from providing adequate support to each matter individually. Some of these people feel as if they have been left behind. God's work must be fulfilled by us; he encourages us to face adversity and witness the tribulations found in our

continued on page 8

A Word From The Bishop



Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

Luke 21: 3-4 NRSV

I am hearing from some of you that this recession is affecting the way you are planning and carrying out your ministry.

At the Synod expression we are reviewing our financial policies so that we have our order of payments known and our contingency plans in place. All of this is good business sense and is necessary in these times.

I also want to raise a theme that I am finding somewhat lacking in the current discussions. Stewardship is about God and God's blessings to us. It is secondarily about budgets and orders of payment. Left to our own choices, there would never be enough money to do the things we are called to do. Giving is about God.

To paraphrase the letter of John, we give because God first gave to us. The question is still what is God up to with us and through us in the world. At the ELCA Youth Gathering I reconnected with Pastor Bruce Davenport of St. John #5 Faith Church in the 7th Ward of New Orleans.

I was first introduced to Bruce and his family by Pastor Glen Aaberg, Cross and Crown in Renton, when Bruce and his family visited in Seattle last year. Bruce is an African-American Pastor working in one of the poorest communities in New Orleans. His church is responsible for an HIV/AIDS testing center, a mentoring program,

continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

A Word From The Bishop

clothing distribution and works with troubled teens, pregnant teens and pre-teens. This work is done from a church building that was significantly damaged by Katrina. He is a regular fixture on the streets of the 7th Ward.

I know that Bruce does not have the money he needs to do all that he is attempting to do. In conversation with him the talk was all about what God is using him and his congregation to do "in the hood". His talk was all about God. Obviously he is finding money to do his work, but his talk is not about the money, it is about God's work. I am sure that Bruce and I do have theological differences. That being said, he is a brother in Christ who is acting on the ELCA tag line "God's Work, Our Hands".

It is important that we be financially wise in the coming days. It is more important that we remember that we are the church. God continues to bless us. Our financial stewardship is a strong statement of faith in the call and equipping that already comes from God.

Soundings *is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org

Deadline for copy of the October issue of Soundings is Wednesday, September 2. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop—buss@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

Save The Date

Fall Bishop Convo

The Fall Bishop Convo is a time for renewal, learning, worship and collegiality for all rostered personnel and spouses. The Convo will take place at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa with guest speaker Professor Jane Strohl and Bishop Wm Chris Boerger. Check in begins at 4 pm on Sunday and Convo ends by noon on Tuesday.

The Rev. Dr. Jane Strohl is Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. Her current research is on the topic of Luther's New Appreciation of Sexuality, Marriage and Family. Her topic at the fall convocation is:

There Is No Neighbor Closer Than the One Who Shares Your Bed and Board:
Luther on Marriage and Family

Luther had his own focus on the family. He celebrated it as one of the best parts of the creation and as the premier arena for Christian witness and service. Our own Lutheran tradition has much to say about sexuality, marriage and family life. You are invited to join in an exploration of what's there and how it can help us today. Our three sessions are: 1) It Takes Two to Gospel: Marriage as Discipleship 2) Procreation: A Sign of God's Faithfulness 3) Parenting: The Universal Vocation.

Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 18.

Cost: $310 (double occupancy), $510 (single occupancy), $620 (couple). Please make payment to: Northwest Washington Synod, 5519 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98103. Please note: Since this event is located in Canada you will need a passport.

For more information about Professor Strohl's visit: www.plts.edu/strohl.html. The website for Harrison Hot Springs is: www.harrisonresort.com

Open Door Ministry

Auction

The Ninth Annual Gala Dinner and Auction for the Open Door Ministries will take place from 5 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov 7, at the Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle. All proceeds will benefit the ongoing ministries which Open Door provides (www.opendoorelca.org).Cost: $65 per person, before Sunday, Nov. 1; $75 per person, after Nov. . For reservations contact Darleen Atik, 425-672-8692, darleenatik@comcast.net. For donations contact Sylvia Maier, 206-367-4316, maiersyl@yahoo.com.

Planting Missional Congregations:

Created and Led By The Spirit

The Fifth Annual Consultation on the Missional Church will take place will take place Nov. 6-7, 2009, Luther Seminary.

Join top scholars, denominational leaders, mission directors and church planters from around the world to discuss how the Spirit is leading in the planting of missional congregations for a new apostolic era.

Speakers include Dr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit; Dr. Mary Sue Dreier, Assoc. Prof. of Congregational Mission and Leadership, Luther Seminary; Dr. Lois Malcolm, Assoc. Prof. of Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary; Dr. Leith Anderson, Senior Pastor, Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, Minn; and Dr. Miroslav Volf , Dir., Yale Center for Faith and Culture, and Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.

Cost is $195 per person if you register on or before Sept. 15; $225 per person after Sept. 15; Students: $95. Cost includes copy of previous consultation publication. Registration closes Oct. 16. Cost does not include housing. More information is available at www.luthersem.edu.

The Year With Luke: Lectionary Series C

Eye Witnesses and Servants of the Word

On November 21 we begin Advent with Luke as he presents himself as a writer who conveys to us "an orderly narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us." To provide opportunities on the Gospel of Luke, the Northwest Washington Synod Bible Book of Faith work group is hosting a series of educational events.

Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg, professor emeritus of Religion at the University of Iowa and internationally known New Testament scholar, will lead a three-week series on the Gospel of Luke. Each series will be the same, but will be offered at different locations throughout the Synod.

The opportunities all take place on Sundays. Location and date choices are:

- September 13, 20, 27 – Faith Lutheran, 2750 McLeod Rd, Bellingham; 360-733-3970
- October 4, 11, 18 – Bethlehem Lutheran, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville; 360-659-2022
- October 25, November 1, 8 – Central Lutheran, 1710 11th Ave, Seattle; 206-322-7500
- December 6, 13, 20 – Holy Spirit, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland; 425-823-2727

These events will begin at 12:30 pm. with a light lunch. Though there is no charge for lunch, a basket for contributions toward lunch will be available.

The presentation will begin about 1 pm and last for about 45 minutes. It will be followed by a discussion, question and answer period. To be able to plan for lunch and the session, please email the committee at bibleookoffaith@lutheransnw.org. We look forward to meeting you at this educational series.

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation

Prayer Retreat

Rooted In Christ's Love

Zion Lutheran in Ferndale will host a ommunity-wide prayer retreat from 9 am to 3 m on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The theme of the retreat is *Rooted in Christ's Love*, based on Eph. 3:16-18; the ay will include sessions and workshops on piritual practices including labyrinth, rock formations and advocacy s it relates to prayer.

Workshop leaders include Marie Marchand (Director of Whatcom eace and Justice Center), Myra Smith (Director of Laughing Flower abyrinth Design) and Singer/song-writer Garrison Doles (The Song hapel). The retreat is free. Refreshments will be provided. You are elcome to bring a dish for sharing at lunch. Concert by Garrison oles will take place from 2 to 3 pm.

Please register by Monday, Aug. 16, by calling 360-366-5567 or mail office_zion@comcast.net. Zion's address is 7215 Valley View Rd., erndale.

Luther and The Hungry Poor

St John United in Seattle is hosting rofessor Samuel Torvend for a half-day onference on the Reformation roots of our utheran service to the poor: *Luther and the lungry Poor*. The event will take place from to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John nited in Seattle.

The event is open to all congregations. Members f St. John are especially encouraging those who work ith soup kitchens, food pantries and other community eeds to attend. Dr. Torvend is an exciting presenter nd did a shortened version of this workshop at PLU lunger Gathering in February. The event will include two resentations by Dr. Torvend, small group sharing, holy ommunion and lunch. Dr. Torvend is author of *Luther nd the Hungry Poor: Gathered Fragments.* It's available on ortress Press for $29, Item No: 9780800662387.

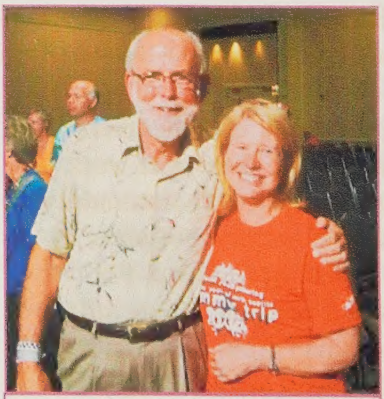
continued from page 1

A Youth Perspecitve

world. We cannot leave God's work undone; he gave us a mission—to take action to relieve suffering and to never forget about those who continue to suffer.

Every night a massive flood of youth ran through the gates of the Superdome for the evening mass gathering. The program began with a combination of energizing and reflective songs which most energetically sang and danced to. The speakers seemed to address the mass of youth individually, making each person feel more empowered. Their inspirational stories of struggles overcome by hope caused an overwhelming silence throughout all four levels of the stadium. This mutual respect was overpowering. We were all there for one reason—to serve and spread God's love...

Regardless of the day's difficulties—the heat and humidity, our own exhaustion, or the heartbreak of witnessing destruction and dire circumstances—this program helped to restore an excitement in all of us, giving us an enthusiasm to continue serving and observing the hardships of the world that require the work of our hands.



Pastor Julie Hutson, LYONS Director, with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

On our service day, we were given the task to survey neighborhoods. We were told to talk to the youth of the houses and ask what sorts of recreational activities they enjoy and what they believed their community needed. While my group was surveying, we met a spirited, chatty lady who immediately summoned us inside for water and

continued on page

continued from page 8

A Youth Perspective

o show us her home. She was the most
ospitable. She stressed how important it was
hat volunteers came to provide support to
hese communities. She was tremendously
rateful that a missionary group from New
ork came down to New Orleans to help her. However, she
lso knew that many other people didn't receive as much
id. She said, "If your group could bring one family home,
his whole effort would be enough."

Afterwards, we listened to a young 16-year old speak
s we toured the Ninth Ward. She spoke of her personal
xperiences as a young child surviving through Hurricane
atrina, the distress, death, violence, and hopelessness
vith such ease and acceptance that it shocked most of
s. These gracious, lovely people, struck quickly with
dversity, couldn't avert their eyes from the damage
waiting them in their hometown. They had two choices:
o face the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina or
eave their lives behind. I cannot picture dealing with
imilar situations that these people were forced to handle.
f anything, people lucky enough to be spared such
ifficulties should give themselves to the cause. That's the
east we could do.

Walking around French Quarter, we experienced
he vibrancy of glittery street performers, the antique,
ntriguing Mardi Gras shops, and café du monde with the
rumpet player playing spiritual anthems. We experienced
he city in its triumphs and its hardships which gave us
greater perspective on how much work has been left
ndone. We witnessed locals attempting to renew their
pectacular city. There was a sense of hope, as if we could
ot only fully restore New Orleans, but spread faithful
ssistance, justice, and love to others as well throughout
ur lifetime.

ditor's Note: This article was edited to fit the space.

Celebrate Journeys To Joy

Lutheran Community Services Northwest invites you to a fundraising brunch celebrating and supporting the work of our programs. Journeys to Joy will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, Bellevue Hilton.

This year's brunch will feature A Journey from Afghanistan to the Pacific Northwest, the personal story of LCS Multicultural Community Services Regional Director Salah Ansary and his 25 years serving refugees.

Important Note. We are combining the effort and expense of our fall and spring events into one annual event. There will not be a spring event.

Host a table. Invite friends to learn what our agency is doing to change lives in our communities. Tables seat 10 and we will happily accommodate over-flow.

There is no cost to attend the brunch. There will be an opportunity, through gifts and pledges, to support our programs.

For more information, to volunteer or to host a table, please contact Monica Hurley at mhurley@lcsnw.org or Lynn Naumann at (206) 816-3223.

Churches Starting Churches

Is your congregation thinking about starting a new church or a second site? Maybe two or three congregations from your cluster would like to explore sponsoring a new congregation in a neighboring community.

The ELCA's annual *Churches Starting Churches Conference* will take place October 18-20 in Greeley, Colorado. Several congregations will tell their stories of how they came into existence, including people from our very own Church of the Beloved in Edmonds.

Workshops will take place to help with the practical

continued on page 1

Through Music and Workshops

Learning About World Hunger

A concert featuring Christian artists, David Scherer and Rachel Kurtz will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Historic Everett Theatre to benefit World Hunger.

Scherer, who also performs as Agape, shares a message of hope, service and love in a hip-hop style, while Kurtz brings her versatile and soulful voice via pop, folk, gospel and blues styling.

The concert is part of a national Jesus, Justice, Jazz Tour sponsored by colleges across the country. The concert will be a powerful evening of music and storytelling designed to inspire young people to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities and beyond. The cost is free. Youth are invited to each raise $20 for World Hunger and collect canned food for their local food banks.

Prior to the concert, from 2-5 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran College, two workshops will be held related to the themes of hunger, justice and service: *Mission/Service Experiences That Matter: Service Learning with Youth/Adults* and *Taking Root: Hunger Causes and Hunger Hope.*

For information about registering for the workshops and reserving seats at the concert go to www.tlc.edu/yfcenter. and/or contact Dr. David Ellingson david.ellingson@tlc.edu. The local concert is being organized by Trinity Lutheran College with support from local churches and community groups.

Continued from page 10

Churches Starting Churches

spects of how to go about creating a new congregation or a second site. If a group rom your congregation would like to attend, lease contact Pat Schmidt in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit in Chicago (1-800-638-3522, ext. 2677) or contact erry Buss in the Synod Office.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **The Rev. Sai Wai (Paul) Cheung,** Grace Chinese, Seattle

† **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad,** St. Peter, Clinton

† **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

We Pray For:

† **The family of the Rev. Paul Bartling.** The Rev. Bartling passed away on Friday, Au 7. Please keep his wife, Ruth, and family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 14275 Sherwood R NW, Seattle, WA 98177.

† **Bernice "Bea" Vevang, widow of the Rev. Selmer "Sam" Vevang**, died on July 11. A service was held for her on July 19 at Our Savior, Issaquah. Bea is survived by two of her children, James Vevang and Beverly Price Cards may be sent in care of Beverly Price at: 22405 SE 20th, Sammamish, WA 98075

† **The Rev. John Finstuen** died on July 17 at Providence Hospital in Portland, OR. Please keep his wife, Kappy, and children in your prayers.

† **Esther Peterson, mother of Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Jan Nesse,** fell at her home in Yakima. She broke several bones and is hospitalized in critical care. Jan will travel to Yakima to be with her mother. Cards may be sent to: Jan Nesse 5519 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

† **The Rev. Darrell Schoen (ret.)** injured his leg and broke two ribs when he fell while moving a heavy toolchest with his son. Cards may be sent to Pastor Schoen at

continued on page 14

continued from page 12

3894 Cindy Ln, Bellingham WA 98226-9448.

Within Our Family

The Rev. Mary Bosell, Immanuel in Everson, had two surgeries in mid-July for a brain tumor. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 20333 Revilo Dr, Burlington WA 98233.

rayers of Thanksgiving

Eleanor Rose Okan, daughter of Pastor John and Liza Oken, sister of Sophia, was born Saturday, June 27, 2009, at 9 am. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. Everyone is doing well. Eleanor's father, John, is the new pastor at Immanuel, Everson. Cards may be sent to the Okan Family at: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5782 Lawrence Rd, Everson, WA 98247-9585

Here 'n There

Members of **Faith Lutheran in Everett** have learned that their video is one of ten to reach the finals for the ELCA video contest. They will learn if they win the contest on August 23 at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. To learn more visit www.godsworkourhands.org.

Prince of Peace in Shoreline volunteered at the Smokey Pointe Rest Area from July 31 through August 3. **Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor** hosted the coffee station at the rest area between Bow and Bellingham on July 11 and 12.

Holy Spirit in Kirkland is hosting Tent City IV beginning in August. After spending time at Bethesda in Mountlake Terrace Tent City III moved locations in June.

Nan Beth Walton , Faith in Seattle, received a contract from the Treble Clef Music Players to publish an arrangement of *Arise, My Love, My Fair One.* The choir at Faith has sung the song many times.

Members of Vashon Lutheran, Vashon United

continued on page 14

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Dat
Calls Accepted		
Ryan Alexander	Hosanna! Lutheran, LakevilleMN	7/27/2009
Eric Finsand	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	8/16/2009
Daniel Shaw	Emmanuel Lutheran, Tacoma	7/1/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	Bethany, Bainbridge	10/15/2009
Death		
Paul Bartling		8/7/2009
Resignations		
Carl Schwinck	Freeborn, Stanwood	9/1/2009
Retirements		
Michael Nel	British Columbia	8/1/2009
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Ryan Alexander	To Saint Paul Area Synod	7/27/2009
Eric Finsand	From SE Minnesota Synod	8/16/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	From Greater Milwaukee Synod	10/15/2009

Continued from page 12

Here 'n There

Methodist, Vashon Presbyterian and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit jointly sponsor a Community Vacation Bible School.

- **Josephine Sunset Home in Stanwood** is hosting their Third Annual Salmon Barbecue. The barbecue will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, at the Harvey Wolden Farm, 21162 Mann Rd, Conway (just down the road from Fir-Conway Lutheran).
- **Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor** is celebrating their sixth anniversary of their partnership with Evangelical Lutheran St. Katharina's Church in Kazan, Russia.
- The Northwest Washington Synod Convention/ Gathering for the Women of the ELCA will be held Oct. 2 and 3 at St. Luke's in Bellevue.

itor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our bsite at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated ekly, when necessary.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

n Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
rlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
ainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	C	Dennis Shaffert, Interim
ellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	NV	Jim McEachran, Pastor
othell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
othell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
urlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
dmonds, Edmonds	PR	NV	Pending
verett, Zion	PR	TR	Supply
saquah, Shepherd of the ills	PR	TR	Martha Myers, Interim
lount Vernon, First vangelical	PR	P	Linda Larson, Interim
orth Bend, Mount Si	PR	C	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
ak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
enton, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Phil Reitz, Interim
attle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
attle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:
R = Pastor
= Associate
IM = Associate in Ministry
M = Diaconal Minister
/SP = Associate with Special
nphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I	= Interviewing
C	= Calling
NV	= New Vacancy
V	= Vacancy
SC	= Synod Call
TR	= Transition process
P	= Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO	= Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5299

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1337
Seattle, WA

Return Service Requested

September 2009; Vol. 26, Issue 8

Table of Contents

Bishop's Message ..... *page 2*
Fall bishop Convo ..... *page 4*
Bible Book of Faith ..... *page 6*
In Our Family ..... *page 12*
Here 'n There ..... *page 13*
Transitions/Mobility ..... *page 14-15*